


I don't know how that weirdly shaped
third page got in there. It must have
grown as everything does in this damned climate.
Dolores Darling;

Thursday Nov. 9, 1944

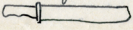
The days seem today by very slowly when I'm
away from you. Each one is a little longer than the one
before it. Perhaps when I am assigned to a regular job
I will find that I fall into a daily routine which will help
speed time on its way into oblivion so that the day will
come when I am once again with you. Grrr! That's the
beast in me emerging! Have I ever introduced you to
him. He's really quite likeable when you once get to
know him. I'm sure you'll enjoy his company as much as
I hope you will because you'll see an awful lot of him
when I get back. His most redeeming virtue is an over-
whelming love for you. Satisfied now that you'll enjoy
his company, Sweetheart?

This evening I am very tired. I put in a
very full day. This morning we had classes and this after-
noon a hike until 3:00 PM when we returned and Her-
wig, Redmon and I decided to do our laundry. We boiled
our dirty clothing together in a large half drum under
which we built a fire,  for about two hours. They
came out quite clean and after rinsing we had a very
respectable wash. It is now hanging up drying as we sit in
the tent praying that it doesn't rain and spatter our
clothes with mud. That is really a big job and don't even
think it isn't.

I very nearly assassinated myself tearing
apart some boxes to build the fire. I grabbed a large
board and ripped it apart. What I did not notice was
that I had a nail in the palm of my hand and the

damned thing nearly went clear thru. It has swelled up and is quite sore. I'll have to try to get something to put on it tomorrow. To top off all this I went to the orderly room to get the machete and as I reached for it I tripped and fell, ripping my right hand with two nails. That wasn't as bad as the other though but was downright discouraging.

These machetes are very amazing things. They are a broad bladed knife about two feet long.

The general shape is this.  It can be used for any one of a million things including chopping down trees, opening coconuts, separating enemies from their heads, and any other things that might need doing. They are tough and can take all kinds of punishment.

My pipe smoking is coming along fine now. I have started pulverizing the Ganger tobaccos I have into a fairly fine tobacco and it really burns quite well. It's a little stronger than cigarettes but isn't as bad as I thought. I'll be a pipe smoker yet. You can learn how to pack a pipe so that every evening when I come home from school at night you can have everything set out before the fireplace, pipe, slipping yourself - or, wait a minute - I just happened to think that if I finish early in the afternoon you will still be working and then I'll have to get things ready for you. The chief army cook I worked for on the ship told us that the first time he got home from a voyage after he had been married his wife met him at the door of their apartment all dressed up very chic. That night she confessed to him that she had bathed and donned a housecoat to meet him and had then thought

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that he might consider her presumptuous so she slipped out of the housecoat and dressed fully. I can lay out your housecoat before you get home in the evening and you need never fear that I will think you presumptuous if a situation such as the one I described above arises.

We have two new men in the tent now. They are both in their thirties and are very quiet fellows. Today one of them bought a coconut and, after breaking it, shared it with us. The poor fellow just took one little piece and then kept urging the rest of it on us. I obliged him by eating my full share but I felt rather guilty about it.

Speaking of food, yesterday we had fresh eggs for breakfast and steak for dinner. Maybe I've already told you about this but it was such a treat that I'll tell you again. The steaks weren't very good according to standards at home, the meat was quite tough and stringy, but judged by New Guinea standards it was marvelous. I enjoyed it thoroughly, and well I might because today we went back to our standard diet of bully beef for noontime and salmon for tonight's meal. They do quite well to get up as good meals as they do ~~over here~~ here though and do try to fix the stuff so it's appetizing. It still is a very monotonous diet however. I want to get back to your cooking.

One of the officers told a fairly good joke today. It seems that a little boy went up to his mother one day and asked "Mummy, where did I come from?" His mother, not having expected this question and not being prepared for it told him to wait till his father got home and that

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he would explain it to him. That night the father came home and the little boy asked him the same questions. The father took him aside and told him of the birds and the bees and the little flowers and when he had finished the boy still wore a perplexed look. His father very resignedly decided that there was nothing to do but to go into detail about the whole thing so he laid bare the whole of the facts of life. Finishing, he looked at his son again and finding him still looking perplexed asked him just what wasn't quite clear. The little boy said "Well, Tommy Jones and I were just ~~arguing~~ ^{talking} and he said he came from Brooklyn so I wanted to know where I came from."

Well, sweetheart, since my candle is burning may I now I will close now and conserve what is left of it for future letter writing. Remember always that wherever I may be I will always carry you with me locked deep in my heart and that I love you

Forever
Freddie